

NEW WING PLANNED FOR U. S. CAPITOL

Building, Begun in 1793, to Have Extension.

Washington.—The capitol, as it stands today, is a symbol of the nation's growth. It has passed through three major stages of expansion, and is yet to be completed through extension of the central part of the east front to give it better architectural balance with the present senate and house sections.

This vast white monument, covering 153,112 square feet, embraces the first capitol of the United States, a modest, almost plain structure about 120 feet long and 100 feet wide, one large enough to accommodate the senate, the house, the Supreme court and the Library of Congress, but now too small for the court and its library.

Funds were scarce when the young government set out in 1793 to build its capitol after a design by Dr. William Thornton, calling for a domed rotunda, a portico and two wings, so it was decided to erect first only the central wing. That was completed in 1800 and congress, the court and the library moved in.

Then, in 1850, the Supreme court moved to the old senate chamber, and only recently have its members been willing to contemplate leaving that room where Webster, Clay, Calhoun, many of the great of the early republic and the nation's first presidents, have labored.

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HISTORY OF WORLD UPSET BY SPICES

Struggle for Trade Led to Great Discoveries

New York.—Spices altered the course of world history, according to Dr. H. A. Gleason, curator of the New York botanical garden.

"It can safely be said that no group of plants, large or small, has had as great historical influence as these cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, ginger and pepper," says Doctor Gleason.

"Although they are natives of the East Indies and the Malay archipelago, they have been known to European or oriental civilization for thousands of years.

"During all this ancient period the source of spices was unknown to the Europeans. The Egyptians and the Phoenicians obtained them from Arabian merchants, or through Bagdad, and passed them on, always at an immense profit, to the nations still farther west.

"How they obtained them is unknown, but references in Arabian Nights to fabulous and hazardous voyages to the land of spices would indicate that some sort of maritime trade to the East Indies had been developed over a thousand years ago, probably through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, and down the coast to India.

"Modern History Begins. The modern history of spices begins some 600 years ago with the discovery of the East Indies, and from that time on, through a span of some four centuries, the struggle between European nations for the monopoly of the spice trade was a direct and immediate cause of a series of events which have been of the most importance in the history of civilization.

"During the height of Venetian prosperity in the fifteenth century, its merchants obtained their spices chiefly from Alexandria, whither they came by caravan. Venetian fleets distributed them to the rest of Europe and at so great a profit that the republic of the Portuguese was aroused. They determined to discover, if possible, a sea route to the East Indies by sailing along the coast of Africa.

"The explorations were pushed further and further to the south and finally they succeeded in rounding the Cape of Good Hope, sailing up the east coast of Africa, crossing the Indian ocean and loading their ships with spices from the East Indies.

"Under the leadership of Vasco Gama they entered on a career of conquest and warfare in the East Indies which soon gave them the monopoly of the spice trade. This they largely retained through the sixteenth century.

"About the same time Christopher Columbus, imbued with the remarkable idea that the world was round instead of flat, set out to sail westward to the East Indies and discovered America instead. Magellan's voyage the same goal, was the first to circumnavigate the globe, and the first to reach the world with his one remaining ship loaded with spices.

"The Spaniards were unable to wrest the East Indies from the Portuguese, but did gain control of the Philippines, and for two centuries fleets of Spanish galleons brought back the wealth of the East across the Pacific Ocean to Spain.

"The seventeenth century marked the rise of the Dutch commerce to the East Indies. They had recently freed themselves from Spain, they were excellent sailors and good fighters, and they soon won for themselves not only the monopoly of the spice trade, but also the enormous island empire which they still retain in the East Indies.

"One result of this struggle of four centuries was the steady reduction in the price of spices.

"With the fabulous profits of the old trade gone, spices were no longer a cause of bloodshed, piracy, and war, and during the last century the spice industry has lost its romance and has settled down into a respectable position in the commerce of the world."

Unredeemed Currency Aids French in Road Building

Paris, France.—Good roads are being built in France out of the profits from the wear and tear on paper money.

MAY MARK SITE OF MAN'S FIRST FLIGHT

Plan to Commemorate Feast of Wright Brothers.

Washington.—A bill has been introduced in congress to provide for the erection of a monument at Kill Devil hill, Kitty Hawk, N. C., to commemorate the first time in history that man flew in a power-driven machine. This was the flight of the Wright brothers on December 17, 1903.

The site of the flight, where it is proposed to erect the monument, is on one of the "banks" of North Carolina, the narrow spits of sand that run along the coast of the state, ten to forty miles off the mainland—naked wastes that seem worlds away from the United States. A bulletin from the Washington (D. C.) headquarters of the National Geographic society based on a communication from Melville Chater describes this region.

"In a graveyard across the Hatteras banks from the sound to the ocean front, we had entered the greater wreck area on the Atlantic coast," says the bulletin. "For 12 hours we investigated the ruins of what had once been ships, now bleached victims of the sea and land, their upstanding masts revealing the flow of gravestones, their forests of protruding spars being the grimy grass of the dunes and the sea.

"At one point we counted 14 wrecks within 100 yards. "Offshore lay here a careened schooner, there a crantly tilted steam tug, the waves white teeth gnawing at their sides in advance of the northwester which would fling these wreck hulks into their last resting place among the sand dunes.

"The grim gale which says that Hatteras' chief import is wrecks hanging in the air, blows it in and out throughout this 100-mile graveyard of the Atlantic.

"And now our seaward-curving beach route revealed the great apex of the bank, off which are the dreaded quicksands, the Diamond shoal. They are the more to be dreaded because of Hatteras, due to the enormous tonnage of steel hulls included in the wrecks. There is a magnetic deviation sometimes amounting to 8 degrees.

"Compass correction by swinging ship—that is, lying her in different directions toward known points—was the shipper's main resource until the development of the radio and its use in the United States naval communication service.

"Man's allies in this warfare against sharks and shrinking gales and the Diamond shoal light ship, and the radio compass. Since 1920 the enemy seas have eaten the land almost two miles toward the 600-yards wide Diamond shoal, whose 80,000 candle-power flare is known to passing vessels by a seven-minute glow.

"The farther northward we followed the banks, the more remote and resourceless seemed the life of the people of Hatteras. There were no castaways who had taken root on this remote width of sand bar, 40 miles offshore.

"The unchangingness of Hatteras folk is revealed in their daily usage of obsolete, often sixteenth-century words. 'My poke' for 'my pocket'; 'be 'conservative' instead of 'willing' to demand a kiss by saying, 'Come here me'; and to speak of one's sweetheart as 'my may' and of a water dog as a 'kelpie'—all this is perfectly good Shakespeare.

"But for Mr. Anglo-Saxon member of the 'Is' as commonly found in the North Carolina speech as in Queen Elizabeth's letters.

"When you hear abashed for 'discreet' and 'abashed' for 'humble' or when a mother affectionately terms her creeping baby an 'inset,' you sense a radical vigor of language, and by the time you learn that on Hatteras no houses, like houses, are 'shanties,' you begin to suspect that your early estimate was neglected.

"Beyond Oregon inlet we gained Nags Head, whose name celebrates those palmy days of professional wrestling when a hobbled horse with a lantern on his head was turned loose on the beach at night to lure ships to their doom.

"Further along, towering 100 feet above the surrounding flatness, rose Kill Devil hill, the scene of the Wright brothers' flying experiments in 1903. A former lighthouse keeper, his wife, and a coast guard are the sole remaining witnesses of those now historic events.

"Trust a woman for determining that, if those crazy Wright fellows wanted to waste their time and money, at least some of the material could be salvaged! The lighthouse keeper's wife had seen the cloth on the first flight, and when the glider of 1902 was abandoned she thoughtfully refashioned its covering into dresses for her children.

"On December 17, 1903, the Wrights having built a motor-driven plane at their workshop under Kill Devil hill, the unexpected occurred. This is what the old coast guard told us:

"Mrs. Duncley called me and Wilbur was 'Good luck! I say as we climbed into the machine. And then, just as I was telling myself that something better than air could not, and never would fly, that machine rose up and flew 800 feet."

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